

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-02 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4723

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 13308

DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION SIGN-OFF

1. IN A BRIEF, UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH TO A VICTORY CELEBRATION AT LABOR PARTY HEADQUARTERS THIS AFTERNOON (OCTOBER 11), PRIME MINISTER WILSON PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT LABOR'S FULL PROGRAM WITHOUT REGARD TO THE NARROWNESS OF ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. HE CALLED FOR NATIONAL UNITY, SAID THAT PARLIAMENT MUST NOW GIVE THE LEAD IN TACKLING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS CONFRONTING THE NATION, AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD DELIVER A MINIS-
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TERIAL BROADCAST OCTOBER 14 SPELLING OUT "WHAT MUST BE

DONE."

2. IN THE NEXT HOUSE OF COMMONS, LABOR WILL HAVE 319 SEATS, GIVING IT AN OVERALL MAJORITY OF ONLY THREE. THE OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, IS FRAGMENTED INTO SIX OTHER PARTIES AND THERE ARE FEW ISSUES ON WHICH THEY ALL MIGHT AGREE.

3. LABOR TOOK 17 SEATS AWAY FROM THE CONSERVATIVES AND REGAINED SEATS FROM TWO LABOR INDEPENDENTS. LABOR'S ONLY LOSS WAS ONE SEAT TO THE WELSH NATIONALISTS. ALTHOUGH WELSH NATIONALIST REPRESENTATION ROSE FROM TWO SEATS TO THREE, ITS OVERALL POPULAR VOTE FELL. SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS, HOWEVER, INCREASED THEIR SHARE OF THE POPULAR VOTE DRAMATICALLY AND TOOK AT LEAST FOUR SEATS AWAY FROM THE CONSERVATIVES (RETURNS FROM SEVERAL OUTLYING DISTRICTS ARE STILL TO COME IN).

4. WITH RETURNS FROM SIX RACES STILL OUTSTANDING, THE LINE-UP OF PARTIES IS LIKELY TO SHAPE UP AS FOLLOWS: LABOR 319, CONSERVATIVES 277, LIBERALS 13, SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS 11, WELSH NATIONALISTS 3, ULSTER UNIONISTS 10, SDLP 2.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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